

the Overtimes

News for the People in Montgomery County Government

March/April 2003



Maintaining more than 1,000 heavy vehicles keeps the staff at Fleet Management busy. Pictured above (starting at the top left, clockwise) Stephen Peters, transit; Charles "Dog" Linthicum, heavy equipment; Christopher Broschart, transit; and Christopher Dunkley, transit.

County Mechanics Keep Fleet Running

Did you ever stop to think about who keeps all those County-owned vehicles operating efficiently? The County owns and operates more than 3,000 vehicles. This number includes 2,000 light vehicles such as police cruisers, administrative vehicles and four-wheel drive vehicles and 700 heavy equipment vehicles, encompassing the dump trucks/snow plows, leafers and excavators. In addition, there are 243 full-size Ride On buses, including 93 mini-buses and 24 clean air (CNG) buses.

Fleet Management Services (FMS), has its headquarters on Crabbs Branch Way and employs a staff of 147 employees, many of whom are responsible for the repair and maintenance of the County's heavy equipment vehicles and Ride On buses. (The County has a contract with First Vehicle Services for maintenance on the light vehicles.)

"Our mission is to make sure that our user departments have what they need to accomplish their mission," said FMS Chief Sharon D. Subadan. "During the recent record-breaking snowstorm, we maintained a 90 percent availability of our snow removal equipment. Mechanics, crew chiefs and supply clerks worked for days, and they did a yeoman's job of keeping vehicles repaired and on the road."

FMS was recently highlighted in Public Works magazine for having a model fleet management operation. According to the author, "Subadan and her team run what is arguably one of the best-managed fleets in the nation's public sector."

Subadan came to the County in November 2000 and immediately made it one of her

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Libraries Offer Email Notification

If you're a frequent library patron, consider signing up for email notifications for library notices. It's fast and convenient and helps to reduce the amount of paper in circulation.

"Our goal is to double the number of customers who choose e-mail to receive library information about reserved materials and overdue items," said Libraries Director Harriet Henderson.

To sign up for email notification, visit a local library or log on to the county web site at www.montgomerycountymd.gov, click "departments" then "Public Libraries." Once there, click on "Your Account," then, on "Register for Email Notification."

For more information, contact a local library or call the Telephone Reference/Language Line at 240-777-0001.



Taste of Wheaton

Get your taste buds ready for the annual Taste of Wheaton on Sunday, May 18 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., in downtown Wheaton. Once again, the annual event will feature some of the best American and ethnic restaurants in Wheaton with "tastes" going for \$1 each. The event will also include free children's activities and musical entertainment.

KIDFEST

On Saturday, April 12 the County's Recreation Department is presenting KIDFEST – a festival to celebrate the children of our community. The festival will be held rain or shine from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Germantown Community Center, located at 18905 Kingsview Road.

Bring the kids out for a fun-filled day of activities including a moon bounce, giant slide, face painting, magic show and "safety village."

For more information, call 240-777-6821 or visit the Recreation department's web site.

Mechanics

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top priorities to replace more than \$7 million of equipment that was past due for replacement. She put in place a six-year plan and in FY 02 was able to reduce the backlog by \$700,000.

At the same time the division struggles to keep its mechanics trained on increasingly hi-tech machinery, they face a shortage of mechanics and are constantly recruiting to fill these positions. An apprentice program is being developed with the assistance of OHR. In the interim, senior mechanics work alongside less experienced workers. As more experienced and knowledgeable mechanics retire, it has become a real challenge for management to replace retirees with people who are just as experienced.

To improve employee morale, FMS has instituted a logo called "Team Fleet" that is emblazoned on bags, shirts and other items that are awarded to employees who demonstrate teamwork. Employees are nominated by their fellow employees and receive an award bearing the Team Fleet logo.

The next time you see one of the County's dump trucks, excavators or a Ride On bus, take a moment to think about the hard-working employees who keep these vehicles running.

the Overtimes

is published bimonthly by the
Montgomery County Government,
Office of Public Information,
4th Floor, Executive Office Building.

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240/777-6530

Fifth Annual Paws in the Park

The Montgomery County Humane Society (MCHS) is holding its fifth annual "Paws in the Park" 5K dog walk on Sunday, May 18 at Wheaton Regional Park. Registration begins at 10 a.m. and the walk begins at 11 a.m.

The walk will be held rain or shine and, this year, will get underway adjacent to the original ice skating rink in the park, located off Arcola Avenue. Participants must contribute a minimum of \$25 in pledges, or simply pay a \$25 entry fee. Proceeds from the annual walk benefit homeless animals at the shelter. MCHS is the only full-service shelter in the County, taking in 9,600 animals in 2002,



with an adoption rate of 66 percent.

Based on the amount of pledges collected, participants will be eligible to receive an assortment of prizes, including tee shirts, hats, gift certificates, a Pet

Lovers Package valued at more than \$1,000, a Restaurant Aficionado's Package of gift certificates donated by local establishments and an under-18 prize of four season's passes to Six Flags Amusement Park.

To register, or for more information, call Drew or Shelley at 301-279-9677 or email mchsevents@comcast.net. Or, check out the web site at www.mchumane.org.

County's New Website Designated "Top Pick"

Montgomery County government's new web site was named a "Top Pick" by MuniNetGuide.com – an online guide and directory to web sites for state, county and local governments.

"The launch of our new web site in November was the culmination of considerable research and hard work to allow citizens to easily access and conveniently use the host of services available to them," said County Executive Douglas M. Duncan.

In its January 2003 reference guide and

review, MuniNet notes that the Montgomery County web site "does a good job of keeping residents informed through various online news services." MuniNet also noted the terrific collection of online services including ballpark search and radon test kit requests, as well as the organization (four subportals: Residents, Government, Businesses, Culture and Leisure).

To check out MuniNet's website go to www.muninetguide.com/CurrentIssue/Jan2003-Feature.asp.

Carbon Monoxide Info Kits Available

The Department of Environmental Protection has information kits available in English, Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese and Chinese that will help residents recognize, detect and prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas released as a byproduct of the incomplete combustion of natural gas, wood, oil, kerosene and propane. The gas can also be produced by furnaces and water heaters,

clothes dryers, space heaters, ranges, ovens, fireplaces, wood stoves and garaged automobiles. It is one of the leading causes of poisoning deaths in the United States, causing

hundreds of fatalities, and sickening thousands of individuals and families. Symptoms are often confused with the flu, and can include headaches, dizziness, nausea and faintness.

To obtain the kit, contact DEP at 240-777-7770 and request a Healthy Indoor Air Information Kit.





Design Selected for 9/11 Memorial

A design has been selected for the County's Memorial to the Events of 9/11/01 to be located in Courthouse Square Park in downtown Rockville. The winning design was created by Gene and Susan Flores of Plainfield, MA (shown above with design and County Executive Douglas M. Duncan).

The County Executive's Committee on a Memorial for the Victims and Heroes of September 11 selected four finalists whose designs reflected the vision of the committee for a memorial that would be "a quiet and comfortable place for people to discover and find solace and peace when visiting the

space." The committee was chaired by former County Councilmember William E. Hanna, Jr., and included some family members of local victims of the 9/11 attacks.

The chosen design consists of an arrangement of 11 benches, one for each victim from Montgomery County, and a small pavilion housing a book listing the names of those who lost their lives.

The competition was conducted by the Montgomery County Public Arts Trust Program of the Arts and Humanities Council. For more information about the memorial, contact the Public Arts Trust at 301-215-7227.

Two New Department Heads Named

The County Executive has named Carolyn W. Colvin as director of the Department of Health and Human Services, and George F. Griffin as director of the Department of Liquor Control.



Colvin, who assumed her new position on March 31, comes from the District of Columbia, where she served for the past two years as the Cabinet Director of the

Department of Human Services. She oversaw the agency's transition to a performance-based budget process; directed the agency's welfare to work efforts; and introduced the District's new Fatherhood Initiative. Her efforts on homeless issues earned her praise from the Mayor.

Colvin will manage the functions of seven service areas within HHS, and over-

see a staff of more than 1,600 employees and a budget of \$192.9 million.



As the new director of the Department of Liquor Control, Griffin will be responsible for the 24 retail stores in the County and a warehouse that distributes beverage alcohol to County stores

and approximately 845 private licensed establishments. The department has a staff of 277 and total sales of \$150 million.

Griffin joined Montgomery County government in 1994 as Special Assistant to the County Executive, where he served as liaison to business and civic groups, as well as to other local governments. He was appointed Assistant Chief Administrative Officer in 2000, and in that position chaired the Liquor Policy Committee. He was then tapped to serve as acting director of DLC.

HR Notes

Office of Human Resources

OHR Resource Library

Check out Human Resources' on-line Resource Library for current information about OHR programs and events. Go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov, then click on the "Government" tab. The Resource Library is listed on the Government page under "Online Information."

Employment Verification

Are you obtaining a loan or entering into a transaction that will result in a bank or mortgage company verifying your employment? If so, remember to ask your bank or mortgage company to request the verification as early as possible in the lending process. Allow at least five working days for us to complete the verification. Don't wait until the day before settlement! If you have questions, call Records Management at 240-777-5112.



APPLY ON LINE!

The Office of Human Resources now offers you the opportunity to apply for selected County jobs on-line. Just go to the County web site (montgomerycountymd.gov), click on "Careers", click on "Continue" and select the "Career Path" then the "Position You Wish To Apply For" and follow the step-by-step instructions. With the apply-on-line option, you can create a new resume or cut and paste your current resume. This option is now available only for selected jobs, but you will soon be able to apply for all County jobs on line! And remember, you can continue to apply for any County job with a resume and a Resume Attachment Form. There is no need to complete a County application form. For additional information, call or stop by the Office of Human Resources.

HIPAA Mailing

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires the County, as a sponsor of health plans, to provide each employee and retiree who is eligible for health coverage with a "Notice of Privacy Practices." This notice contains information about the obligation of your health plan to protect the privacy of certain health information and the conditions under which the plan can use or disclose protected health information. It also

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VACATION HOUSE FOR RENT

—one year-old, 3-bdr. house at "Salt Pond" in Bethany Beach, DE. Sleeps 8, overlooks 15th green. Use of swimming pool, tennis courts and golf course. Five minute drive to Bethany Beach and Delaware State Park. Rents range from \$600 in early season to \$1,200 after July 4. Saturday to Saturday rentals. Photos available. Call 301-572-4647.

BEACH RENTAL — Rehoboth Beach, DE. Three bdr., 2 baths, screened porch, outdoor shower, large deck, fenced yard, A/C units, ceiling fans, cable TV, W/D, phone. Pets welcome. Available for weeks/weekends, year round. Call Pat, 301-587-5495.

COUNTRY GETAWAY — Berkeley Springs, WV. Cozy, fully equipped 3-bdr. house, converted from barn. Large deck, A/C units and fans, sleeps up to nine. Located 5 miles from town on 31 acres with gorgeous views. Available for weeks/weekends, year round. Call Pat, 301-587-5495.

'96 FORD RANGER XLT — 4x4, auto, new tires and battery, loaded with options. One owner. 48k miles. \$9,000. Call Mary, 240-777-6859 or 301-460-7431.

New Merit Protection Board Members

The members of the Merit System Protection Board for 2003 are: Harold D. Kessler, serving as chairperson; Rodella E. Berry, serving as vice-chairperson; and Mary A. Lamary as an associate member.

The board's mission is to oversee the County's merit system and to protect employees' rights under the system.

Offices of the Merit System Protection Board are located in the Council Office Building, suite 113. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The phone number is 240-777-6620.

Problems Printing The Overtimes?

If you are attempting to print the Overtimes on a color printer and some of the words print in a "garbled" fashion, contact the Department of Technical Services' Help Desk at 240-777-2828.

Some color printers — not all — are printing the Overtimes incorrectly. This is most likely a problem caused by a glitch in the system of that particular computer or printer as it doesn't appear to be a universal problem.

Backpage Bargains

County employees may submit ads, non-commercial only, with name and home and office phone number to Information Office, 4th floor, EOB. **Ads may appear one time only.** Deadline for the next issue is May 16.

BOAT — '01 Carolina Skiff, 19', center console w/ trailer, 50hp Johnson, fish finder, rod holders, excellent condition, \$10,500/best offer. Must sell. Call 240-777-6711 or 717-334-3511, eves.

BOAT — '73 MFG 15 ft. Bowrider. 55hp Evinrude w/ trailer. \$2,000/best offer. Call Rick, 301-924-2840.

FURNITURE — black lacquer china cabinet, \$400. Glass & wood corner curio cabinet, \$150. Best offer on both. Call 240-777-1777 or 301-931-1041.

FOR SALE — Chippendale dresser, 42", mahogany. \$895. Call Ann, 240-777-1401 or 301-847-6789 (code 6789).

FOR SALE — Bang & Olufsen Beomaster 2400 (radio/stereo amplifier 2 x 30 watts RMS high-fidelity output), rosewood trim with brushed aluminum fin-

ish, good condition, \$130. Bang & Olufsen Beogram 8000 turntable, w/ Tangential arm with MMC 2 cartridge, rosewood trim with brushed aluminum, excellent condition. \$250. Sony CMT-ED1 desktop stereo hi-fi CD/cassette player with optical output, detachable 15 watt per channel speakers, 8x

oversampling, 18-bit digital filter, remote, auxiliary inputs/outputs, \$180. Contact Mani at 240-777-5055.

BICYCLE — Schwinn Super LeTour touring bike. 12-spd., 27" wheels, silver-gray paint, rack, pump, sheepskin saddle cover. Excellent condition. \$100. Call Jon, 240-777-5075 or 703-750-2437, eves.

PROM DRESSES — four dresses, sizes 8 to 12, various colors and styles. Prices range from \$30 to \$80. Call Pat, 301-587-5495.

FOR SALE — Triple 7 Zcore Titanium little league bat, 31", 18.5 oz., brand new (never used), \$110. Also, King 600 trumpet w/ case, excellent condition, \$400. Call 240-777-6711.

WANTED — several wooden barrels in good shape, any size. Low cost or giveaway. Call Joe, 240-777-3915 or 301-949-8975.

Sign Up for Automobile Repair Classes

The Division of Consumer Affairs is offering its popular three-part Consumer Auto Repair Seminar on April 23 and 30, from 7 to 9 p.m., in the first floor auditorium of the Council Office Building. The third session is a hands-on class and will be held on May 3 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Courtesy Jeep, 755 Rockville Pike.

The seminar is aimed at consumers with little or no automotive knowledge and is designed to take some of the mystery out of how an automobile operates. Learn how

the engine, brakes, and other mechanical systems work and the maintenance necessary to keep them trouble-free. The classes will also cover how to safely jump-start your car, how and when to check your oil and tire pressure, how to protect your car from rust and maintain its appearance, and tips on how to get better gas mileage and save money.

The classes are free of charge, but pre-registration is required. To register, call 240-777-3764.

Health Yourself's Annual Health Fair

Worried about your blood pressure? Or, how about your cholesterol? Or maybe you're thinking about joining a fitness center. Whatever your health concerns, plan on stopping by Health Yourself's Annual Health Fair on Thursday, April 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Executive Office Building cafeteria.



Health Yourself

Stop by and pick up an assortment of health education materials and receive screenings for cholesterol, blood pressure, body fat, oral, vision and skin. Visit a health education booth and speak with a nutritionist or a chiropractor, or get information on natural skin care products, massage therapy or ergonomics.



The author's daughter, Alex, (left) spent the day rescuing family and friends on horseback.

Country Life, a Snow Storm And Alternative Transportation

Submitted by Gayle Libby Curtiss
As a Special to the Overtimes

Country folk have a way of going about their daily life with a certain amount of self-sufficiency. However, sometimes even self-sufficient folks need a little help. The snow storm of February 16-17 was a prime example of survival and neighbors helping neighbors.

Returning home from western PA on Monday, February 17, with my daughter Molly, the going was slow but steady. That is, until we were within two miles of home. Being the self-sufficient person that I am, I persevered and attempted to navigate the yet unplowed roads and landed, rather unceremoniously, in a ditch. Molly, anxious to get home, announces she is going to walk. Not a good idea in 2 ½ ft. of snow and more than two miles from home. As good fortune would have it, my older daughter, Alex, was out riding her horse, Pumpernickel, and with a couple of cell phone calls, they came to our rescue. Molly proceeded to climb on top of the car and slide onto the horse's back behind Alex and off they went.

At the same time that Alex made her way back with two fresh horses, a couple of young men arrive (clearly suffering from a severe case of cabin fever and eager to help out a damsel in distress). They were driving the most powerful truck conceived and built by man. After breaking two tow lines in an attempt to pull my car out of the ditch, they brought out a heavy chain and are able to

finally free my car and send me on my way.

The following morning, thinking that my snow adventures were over, I am out feeding the horses when a couple appears in the roadway in front of our house. Somewhat distressed, they ask if they can leave their car (as the road is still not plowed beyond our home), as the gentleman plans to walk to a neighbor's home a half a mile away. He informs us that his eight-year-old daughter has been snowed in there for three days and he must get her home. His intention was to walk through the snow and carry her back to his car. After listening to his story, I offer a simple solution. I would send my daughter on horse back with an additional small horse for their daughter to ride back. Without too many options, and feeling somewhat desperate, they go along with the plan. Alex takes off shortly thereafter, and within 15 minutes the neighbor calls letting us know that she had arrived. Twenty minutes after that, Alex, horses and the young, beaming with pride young lady, arrive safely on horseback.

The following day, the neighbor stops by to express his appreciation for our help, and goes on to tell me that the little girl was on daily medication, and after three days had no more with her. It was crucial that she get home, hence the urgency of retrieving her from the neighbor's house.

Just another day in the country...

HR Notes

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states that certain uses and disclosures may require your written authorization and that you may request restrictions; inspect, copy, and amend protected health information; receive an accounting of non-routine disclosures; and file complaints. Notices will be mailed in early April, and will also appear on the Resource Library on the County's web site. Please read the notice carefully and keep it for your records. Employees may receive another notice from their health plan because all parties affected by the HIPAA regulations must send a similar notice to comply with the regulations.

Earned Income Tax Credit

Certain low and moderate-income workers are eligible for a tax benefit called the Earned Income Credit. Call 1-800-492-0618 for guidelines on eligibility and to find out about the free tax preparation assistance that's available to those who are eligible for the EIC.

Take Our Kids To Work

Thursday, April 24 is Take Our Kids to Work Day for County employees. There will be no organized program this year, but employees are encouraged to bring their children between the ages of 9 and 15 to work. Additional information will be provided by the Office of Human Resources.

County Earns Workplace Excellence Seal of Approval

Montgomery County government has earned a "Workplace Excellence" Seal of Approval from the Maryland Work-Life Alliance. The recognition was awarded to the County for its "exemplary commitment to the workforce by creating a workplace culture that allows employees to be successful in the workplace, at home and in the community."

The Seal of Approval was awarded to Montgomery County government and 51 other employers from around the state that met stringent standards regarding the benefits and work environments that they provide to their employees. These include flexible work hours, family-oriented policies, training and development programs and a workplace culture that supports diversity, occupational safety, equal opportunities and performance appraisals.